

May 3, 1999

99V-101 (01)

Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Safety Defect Report

Gentlemen:

On April 28, 1999, Fleetwood Folding Trailers, Inc. determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in the folding trailers listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

The following is the information required by 49 CFR part 573:

- This report was prepared on April 29, 1999.
- Fleetwood Folding Trailers, Inc. has assigned Technical Service 99-2 (TS:99-2) as an identification code to this recall.

- (1) The affected folding trailers were manufactured by the following wholly owned subsidiary of Fleetwood Enterprises, Inc.:
- Fleetwood Folding Trailers, Inc.
258 Beacon Street, P.O. Box 111
Somerset, Pennsylvania 15501

The agency should contact the following individual with respect to this recall:

Robert E. Wozniak
Director of Engineering Services - Motor Home Group
2970 Myers Street.
Riverside, California 92513
Telephone: (909) 351-3814 Fax: (909) 351-3986

This report was prepared by:

Chuck Reckner
Director of Engineering
Fleetwood Folding Trailers, Inc.
258 Beacon Street, P.O. Box 111
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- (2) 1999 Nevada and 1999 Cheyenne model folding trailers are involved in this recall.

The involved folding trailers are 1999 Grand Tour Series folding trailers manufactured between November 25, 1998, and January 25, 1999. These units do not have the proper tire clearance in relation to the metal frame cross member. Proper tire clearance should be 5/8" minimum spacing.

	<u>Beginning</u>		<u>Ending</u>
1999 Cheyenne V.I.N. range:	4CP696G15X7261001	-	4CP696G19X7261065
	4CP696G10X7261066	-	4CP696G12X7261165
	4CP696G14X7261166	-	4CP696G1XX7261270
	4CP696G11X7261271	-	4CP696G14X7261300
	4CP696G17X7265101	-	4CP696G12X7265135
	<u>Beginning</u>		<u>Ending</u>
1999 Nevada V.I.N. range:	4CP697G12X7262001	-	4CP693F10S7262100
	4CP697G16X7262101	-	4CP697G12X7262175
	4CP697G14X7262176	-	4CP650H16V7262260
	4CP697G16X7262261	-	4CP697G14X7262310
	4CP697G16X7262311	-	4CP697G11X7262345

- (3) Fleetwood Folding Trailers, Inc. reports the following as the number of folding trailers containing the safety defect:

<u>Make</u>	<u>Year/Model</u>	<u>Number of Folding Trailers</u>
Grand Tour Series	1999 Cheyenne	335
Grand Tour Series	1999 Nevada	345

The total number of folding trailers potentially affected by the recall: 680

- (4) Fleetwood Folding Trailers, Inc. estimates that 25% of identified folding trailers are subject to improper tire clearance related to the safety defect.

Prior to November 25, 1998 two individual trailer frame assemblies were used in production. On November 25, 1998 an Engineering change was implemented to consolidate the two individual trailer frame assemblies into one standard frame assembly for both Cheyenne and Nevada model trailers. One of the changes necessitated to standardize the frames was the addition of two 5 7/16" x 11" metal filler plates. Due to inconsistent positioning of the metal filler plates, a loss of tire clearance in relation to the front frame cross member was observed. On January 25, 1999 the filler plates were shortened to 5 1/16" x 11" to allow for additional tire clearance.

- (5) Improper positioning of the 5 7/16" x 11" filler plate on the front frame cross member may cause loss of tire clearance. Loss of tire clearance may result in the tire rubbing against the front frame cross member.

Improper spot weld positioning of the 5 7/16" x 11" filler plate during assembly to the front frame cross member reduced the minimum allowable tire clearance.

If the 5 7/16" x 11" filler plates are mislocated, tire clearance is reduced and the tread of the tire may engage against the metal filler plate.

As a result of the tire engagement to the metal filler plate, loss of tire tread, overheating, and possibly tire failure may occur. This may result in a loss of proper towing of the trailer or loss of tow vehicle maneuvering. To date no tire failures or accidents have been reported.

- (6) On January 6, 1999 our Shipping Department found two Cheyenne trailers with the curbside tire(s) rubbing the frame. Continued inspections revealed a loss of tire clearance and all shipments of Cheyenne and Nevada models were ceased. On January 8, 1999 an Engineering analysis of the standardized frame assemblies revealed that the two Cheyenne's had improper spot weld positioning of the metal filler plate on the front frame cross member. On January 8, 1999 an internal rework campaign was implemented to correct the two Cheyenne model trailers and any additional trailers found to have the identical safety defect. On January 11, 1999 shipments of Cheyenne and Nevada models resumed after all remaining inventory was inspected. It was determined that no further complications should be encountered. On March 3, 1999 a warranty service claim was received from a dealer with the suspect defect. On April 12, 13, and 28, four additional warranty service claims were received with the suspect safety defect. On April 28, 1999 it was determined that all suspect trailers should be voluntarily recalled.
- (7) Not applicable.
- (8) On January 25, 1999 Engineering specifications were modified to reduce the size of the filler plate to 5 1/16" x 11" and established a permanent spot weld location increasing the tire clearance in relation to the front frame cross member. A minimum allowable tolerance of 5/8" was established for tire clearance distance from the metal filler plate. Trailers produced between November 25, 1998 and January 25, 1999 with less than the minimum 5/8" clearance will be corrected to comply with the new standard.

No parts will be required to perform the service remedy. Fleetwood Folding Trailers, Inc. will provide this modification at no charge to the customer.

Fleetwood Folding Trailers, Inc. intends to conduct a dealer mailing on May 7, 1999.

Fleetwood Folding Trailers, Inc. intends to conduct a customer notification on May 17, 1999.

Fleetwood Folding Trailers, Inc. does not foresee any complications implementing this voluntary recall campaign.

- (9) Copies of subsequent correspondence will be submitted to N.H.T.S.A. within five (5) days of transmittal. This correspondence will include:

- I) Letter of Dealer Notification
- II) Letter of Customer Notification
- III) Recall Service Bulletin

In accordance with our customary practice, we are requesting your review of the enclosed draft letters to dealers and owners. Also enclosed is a draft of the recall Service Bulletin which details the remedy to be applied to the subject molded gas bottle cover lid.

Sincerely,



Chuck Reckner
Director of Engineering
Fleetwood Folding Trailers, Inc.

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Enclosures

